



SPANZ

SECONDARY PRINCIPALS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

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Dear Colleagues

The 2008 budget was not received enthusiastically by the education sector and understandably so, with many having high expectations of significant developments flowing from the operations grant review. That review identified areas of cost pressures for schools and the sector contributed to two further reports, one on ICT and the other on support staff, that were used as a resource for the budget round. Both of these reports are confidential at this stage although the ICT one may be released in the near future.

An increase of 5.0% to operations grant funding from 1 January 2009 was the major gain for secondary schools in the budget. This increase will be split as follows:

1. 3.1% added to all existing funding components to cover inflation.
2. 1.9% including in a new funding category for ICT development. This is indicative funding only and not tagged.

These increases go a small way to addressing the concerns raised by the sector and it is encouraging to note that the extra funds schools will receive will be able to be used at the school's discretion, thus supporting the self-managing concept. When the reports on ICT and support staff are finally released principals and boards will be able to assess how effective the government's response has been to what was suggested by the sector.

A summary of all education budget announcements can be found on the MOE website homepage under "New on this site".

The deadline date for responding to the discussion document on Schools Plus is today. I encourage you all to send in a response and the ministry has said that they will continue to accept them up to the end of next week.

Peter Gall
SPANZ President